

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

014936

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COUNTRY Bulgaria
SUBJECT The Gorubso Lead-Zinc Mines

REPORT [REDACTED]
DATE DISTR. 2 April 1954

NO. OF PAGES 11

DATE OF INFO. [REDACTED]

REQUIREMENT NO. RD

PLACE ACQUIRED [REDACTED]

REFERENCES [REDACTED]

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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
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(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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1. Prior to 1944, the lead-zinc mining enterprise in the Kurdzhali area was known as the Pirin Joint Stock Company, financed with German and Bulgarian capital. [REDACTED] At this time, only three mines were exploited: The "Burievo," Krushev Dol, and Boevo Gyudyurska Mines. The enterprise was equipped with all types of installations--a cable line (Gyudyurska - Burievo - Kurdzhali), a flotation plant (in Kurdzhali), electric power, etc. 25X1
2. After the Soviets took control, the enterprise was expanded with the aim of exploiting the resources to the maximum as quickly as possible.
3. The main administration of the "Gorubso" Mines is in Kurdzhali (exact location not known). [REDACTED] a Soviet is the chief director of the enterprise [REDACTED] has greater rights than the minister (sic). He decides on credit up to unlimited amounts, makes agreements, determines work norms, salaries, and pay, and is supplied with a directorial fund which amounts "to millions," etc. 25X1
4. The assistant director is Stefanov (fnu), a Bulgarian. [REDACTED] he is only a figurehead and a Party functionary [REDACTED] 25X1

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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STATE	X	ARMY	X	NAVY	X	AIR	X	FBI		AEC									
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- c. The "Konski Dol" Mine, one kilometer north of the "Burievo" Mine;
- d. The "Dolna Petrovitsa" Mine, one kilometer south of the "Burievo" Mine; and
- e. The "Yuzhna Petrovitsa" Mine, two kilometers south of the "Burievo" Mine.

9. [redacted] the following are attached to the administration of the
Burleva Reka group; 25X1

- a. Kavalenko (fnu), director [redacted] 25X1
- b. Iliev (fnu), deputy director [redacted]
- c. Chief engineer, Soviet (name not known) [redacted]
- d. Chief of the "Geologists and Collections" section (name not known);
- e. Chief of the construction section (name not known);
- f. [redacted] 25X1
- g. Chief of the "Surveying Bureau" [redacted]
- h. Chief of the "cadre" section [redacted]

10. In addition, the following are attached to the administration;

- a. Chief accountant;
- b. Cashier;
- c. Doctor;
- d. Dentist;
- e. Representative of the okoliya Party committee;
- f. Representative of the okrug committee of the ORPS (Obsht Rabotnicheski Profesionalen Soyuz; General Workers Professional Union);
- g. Library;
- h. Commissariat; and
- i. Many other types of offices.

The "Burievo" Mine

11. The "Burievo" Mine is located about six kilometers south of Madan. The mine director is Dyadov (fnu) 25X1

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12. The mine is divided into three sections, each of which has a section chief. The mine is old and has been exploited on several levels. At present, work is being carried out at a depth of 250 meters. [redacted] the ore is located in horizontal veins. 25X1
13. The miners use compressed air drills in the shafts or blast with explosives received from the factory at Gara Tvrditsa. Loading is done primarily by hand, although certain sections have loaders which are driven by compressed air. Ore is transported in mine cars which are pushed by the workers to the shaft where they are sent to the surface by elevator. Then, with the aid of an electric machine, the ore is taken to storage bunkers near the cable line. ([redacted] this method of transportation was to be replaced by a trolley car system and [redacted] a similar line was to be built to the "Krushev Dol" Mine.) 25X1 25X1
14. The ore consists chiefly of lead, and also contains a little zinc and iron and other metals in insignificant quantities. [redacted] the ore concentration [redacted] varies from vein to vein. [redacted] the production is not less than 150 tons for 24 hours. 25X1 25X1
15. Workers are recruited throughout Bulgaria with the promise of high salaries, living quarters, and other conveniences. However, since the labor turnover is great, Trudovaks [redacted] also used. [redacted] at the "Burievo" Mine, one Trudovak company was employed, and this number was increased in March 1952 when additional Trudovaks arrived. The mine works on a 3-shift basis and is idle one day a week. [redacted] between 200 and 300 persons were employed on each shift. 25X1 25X1
16. The mined ore is taken by cable line to Kurdzhali where it is processed in a flotation plant.
17. Living conditions are relatively good. The workers receive work clothing and rubber boots and one suit of clothes per year. They live in housing developments, most of which are solid 2-story buildings. Ten persons occupy one room. Rooms are equipped with a bed spring, a soft mattress, sheets (upper and lower), a blanket, a soft pillow, and a pillow case. In addition, the rooms have a table with a table cloth, chairs, and curtains. In some of the buildings, each room has a radio. There are stoves for heating, but last winter (1951), there was not enough firewood. The miners pay rent for these rooms. Workers with families (this applies mainly to administrative personnel) receive a room with a kitchen, or in certain cases only a room.
18. The Soviets live in a separate housing development with very much better conditions, furniture, rugs, etc. They are fed in a separate hall where they are served better food at lower prices (including white bread).
19. Workers can either eat at the dining hall operated by "Narmag" (People's Stores), where they must pay for the food immediately, or they may cook in their own quarters. The mining camp also has a "Narmag" shop where vegetables, dairy products, bread, clothing, etc. are sold. Alcoholic beverages are not sold by the glass, but may be purchased in bottles (not to be drunk on the premises of the store). "Narmag" has only a limited selection of goods.
20. The bathhouse is small and uncomfortable. Transport to Kurdzhali by means of the shuttle bus operated between the mining sub-directorates and the town is free of charge. Children of the miners are taken to school in Madan by a school bus operated by the mine at no charge.

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21. The salary of clerks at the mine is higher than that of other clerks throughout the country; for example, a mine clerk receives 16,000 to 18,000 leva per month. The Soviets receive the extraordinarily high salaries of 200,000 to 300,000 leva per month. Miners receive salaries as follows: (listed in old leva)

- a. Master miners, 800-1,000 leva;
- b. Assistant master miners, 600-800 leva; and
- c. General underground miners, 530 leva.

22. For production above the established norm, miners are paid as follows:

- a. Up to 110 percent, normal pay plus 100 percent bonus;
- b. From 110 to 130 percent, normal pay plus 120 percent bonus; and
- c. Above 130 percent, normal pay plus 150 percent bonus.

However, if a miner is absent without permission during the month, he loses approximately 30 percent of his bonus per day.

23. The mine is guarded by Militia personnel. The Ministry of the Interior has an office at the mine, headed by Militia (State Security) officers wearing officers' uniforms and blue caps.

there are not less than 30-40 Militiamen.

25X1

24. Guardposts are located near the building of the okoliya committee of the Party, in front of the development where the Soviet personnel live, at the bunker of the cable line, at the bunkers where the ore has been unloaded from trucks, and at the mine shafts. These posts are strengthened at night, and additional posts are manned by armed Party workers.

25. Notices are posted around the mining area that movement in the region is prohibited and that the guards will shoot without warning.

26. Immediately upon arrival at the mine, each new worker must present his "otkrit list" to the Militia. The Militia also take his "lichna karta" (personal identity card) which they keep until he gets his mine identification card.

The "Krushev Dol" Mine

25X1

27.

28. Unlike the "Burievo" Mine, this mine has perpendicular veins, and the ore is therefore taken out of the mine on endless conveyor belts. The ore is dropped from the mining "stages" to the horizontal drifts through chutes. The ore at the "Krushev Dol" Mine is the richest in the entire mine administration. The method of work at this mine is the same as at the "Burievo" Mine. The ore contains the same metals as at the "Burievo" Mine, except that the ore at the "Krushev Dol" Mine contains a much higher concentration of metal, estimated

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to be 60-70 percent metal concentration. the production at the "Krushev Dol" Mine it is not less than at the "Burievo" Mine. The ore is taken out of the mine on an electric car through a tunnel two or three kilometers long to the ore storage bunker at the "Burievo" Mine.

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entrances, three exits, galleries, and several ventilation shafts. At the present time, two levels are being exploited and a third is being prepared. After the ore was exhausted, a shaft 100 meters deep was dug for drawing out the ore, from which galleries will probably be built to the mining stages.

The "750 Working Level"

35. The ore at "750 working level" is mixed with a great deal of earth and, since the mine is very humid, easily caves in. Large expenditures are required for repairing and bracing the shafts.
36. The ore is of the type found in the "Burievo" Mine--chiefly lead. Pyrites can be found in some layers, especially in the quartz layers. Production is sporadic and the ore is not taken out of the mine regularly. The labor force is not constant; there are more workers at the mine during the winter, but many leave in the spring, as for example, there was a mass exodus of workers on 1 March 1952. As a consequence, the mine administration requested Vŭlko Charvenkov to send in Trudovaks.
37. [redacted] the production is about 100 tons of ore per 24 hour period. 25X1
[redacted] much gravel is mixed with the ore after blasting. The master miners usually blast thin layers and the ore is consequently mixed with a great deal of gravel and stones. Since the miners work by norms, they attempt to get as high a production as they can. Therefore, they fill as many cars as they can with the mixture of gravel and ore. At night, especially, the cars have stones and ballast on the bottom and a layer of ore on the top. [redacted] 25X1
the plant which processes the ore from "750 working level" treats large quantities of ore and yet is unable to fulfill its production plans because of the low concentration of metal which this mine sends in.
38. The method of mining in this mine is similar to that in the "Burievo" Mine. The air compressor is electric--20 cubic meters. It drives about 15 drills (which are Soviet)--with soldering (sic). In addition, "750 working level" is equipped with two "Diesel Atlas" compressors [redacted] 25X1
[redacted]
39. There is also a labor turnover at this mine. There is an increase in personnel in the fall, and workers leave in large numbers in the spring. [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] Shipping, loading, and various other jobs are done by Trudovaks. Some Trudovaks are assistant master miners and a very small number of Trudovaks are master miners. The administration planned to give "master miner" courses to the Trudovaks, but this plan was abandoned for reasons unknown [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] "750 working level" had a course for foremen and supervisors (of two to three months duration), whose graduates received salaries 50 percent greater than the norm; in return, the graduates were obligated to work with the enterprise for three years. 25X1
40. [redacted] one Trudovak company was employed at "working level 750", 25X1
[redacted]
41. Living conditions here are the same as at the "Burievo" Mine. One housing development is used for 400 Trudovaks. The other buildings are 1-story barracks housing bachelors. Each building had two two rooms for 10 to 13 men and one room for drying clothes. The other barracks are two stories high, the first floor of

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25X1

brick construction and the second floor of wood construction. Each building has four apartments, consisting of one room, kitchen, bathroom, closet, and a small storeroom. In general, the living quarters are comfortable and clean. These buildings extend north from the mines along the river for a distance of two kilometers. New buildings are being put up constantly by Sovbolstro (the Bulgarian-Soviet Construction Company); most of these are of wooden construction, but a few massive (brick) ones have been started. The mine does not have a bathhouse and has no drinking water. For a long time, there was no dining hall because of a lack of space, but one was later taken from the Trudovaks.

25X1

42. The ore is taken from the storage bunkers by ZIS and Molotov trucks and transported to Burievo-Kurdzhali. Some of the ore is taken to the plant at Srednogorts.
43. The mine is guarded by a Militia uchastok. The commanding officer has a rank of "starshi Militiaman." The mine has four guardposts which are manned at all times; at night the security force is strengthened by armed workers.
44. A new power plant is being built near the mine. The installation of machinery had begun [redacted] the plant will probably be naphtha-powered.

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The "Dolna Petrovitsa" Mine

45. The "Dolna Petrovitsa" Mine is located one kilometer south of the "Burievo" Mine. The director is Betoyski (fnu), an engineer [redacted]
46. The ore of this mine is similar to that of the "Burievo" Mine. [redacted] the production rate [redacted] is not more than 30 to 40 tons per 24 hour period. [redacted] both Trudovaks and civilians are employed.
47. [redacted] several barracks are now under construction. The area has a store and a dining hall and, in contrast with the other mining areas, plenty of water.
48. The ore is taken from the mine by truck to the bunker at "Burievo." From there it is taken to Kurdzhali via the cable line.
49. [redacted] no details concerning the guard force. [redacted]

25X1

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The "Yuzhna Petrovitsa" Mine

50. The "Yuzhna Petrovitsa" Mine is actually part of the "Dolna Petrovitsa" Mine. The director is Dobri (lnu) [redacted] there are supervisors, three clerks, and other directive personnel [redacted]
51. The mine has two galleries with several work places. It is equipped with a 20-cubic centimeter compressor. The galleries are new; no ventilation shafts have

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been constructed, and the air is bad in the galleries. Ventilating is done by means of pipes.

52. The ore is located in vertical veins. It is of poor quality and no rich layers have yet been found. Test drilling for new veins has been done in the area.
53. Personnel at the mine consists of both civilian workers and Trudovaks (who mainly transport the ore out of the mine). Loading machines are used for loading the ore (the galleries are wide and high).
54. [] the production at the mine [] might be about 30 tons for a 24 hour period. 25X1
25X1
55. New barracks are being built for bachelors and married men, at a distance of 1.5 kilometers from the mine.
56. The ore is taken by truck to the bunker at "Burievo."
57. The mine has one guardpost. [] 25X1
[]

The "Boevo" Mining Administration

58. [] the following mines (and probably others) are subordinate to the "Boevo" Mining Administration: 25X1
- a. "Boevo;"
 - b. "Gyudyurska," which has a 300-meter shaft;
 - c. "Pshenichishte;"
 - d. "Gradishte;"
 - e. "Vlyaykov Chukar;" and
 - f. "Fabrika."
59. [] the ore from the "Gyudyurska" Mine is taken to "Burievo" via the cable line. 25X1
60. [] this administration has a flotation plant. Ore is brought in by truck to the Podkova station. If the ore has been processed, it is shipped to Burgas; if it has not been processed, it is sent to Kurdzhali. [] 25X1
[] 25X1

The "Madan" Mining Administration

61. [] the ore of the "Madan" Administration is similar to that of the "Burievo" Mine. [] a large number of Trudovaks are employed, 25X1
[] a Trudovak major at the mine. There is a flotation plant in the village (capacity not known). Many new housing developments are under construction. 25X1

The "Sharenka" Mine

62. The "Sharenka" Mine is located a few kilometers southwest of Madan. The ore is the same as at the other mines.

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63. Trudovaks and civilians are employed at the mine. The workers live along the highway and are transported by truck to and from the installations.
64. The ore veins are vertical. The mine is considered very rich, and for a long time was the highest producer. However, the earth is crumbly and cave-ins are very frequent (twice there were casualties). The ore is taken by truck to Madan or possibly to Srednogortsi.
65. There are many uniformed and civilian Militiamen in Madan (there is something like a Ministry of the Interior okrug in Madan). Otkrit lists (open papers) are checked at Madan.

The "Srednogortsi" Mining Administration

66. [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] A flotation plant, formerly privately-owned, is located in the village. After preliminary processing, the ore is taken by truck to Kurdzhali, and from Kurdzhali to the port of Burgas.

The "Rudozem" Mining Administration

67. [redacted] the "Rudozem" Mining Administration has many subordinate mines. These are new, and some are still in the planning stages. [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] a flotation plant and many living quarters are under construction there. A gallery about three kilometers long is being dug to the flotation plant so that the ore can be brought in directly from the mining shaft. In March (1952), the mine laid off workers because of a lack of compressors. 25X1
68. [redacted] the ore at this mine has a metal concentration of 80 percent. [redacted] ore of this type in Burgas harbor awaiting shipment to the Soviet Union. [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] a blast furnace for the final processing of the ore is to be constructed in Kurdzhali. [redacted] Kurdzhali 25X1
[redacted] many cases, machines, and other materiel being unloaded east of the plant. [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] many residential quarters under construction.
69. There is a great emphasis placed on increasing the output of the mines. For example, in 1952, Georgi Chankov, accompanied by many directors and Party secretaries of the mines, came to "Burievo" and asked for a greater production.
70. [redacted] other geological groups are active in this basin, in addition to the "Gorubso" groups. 25X1

71. [redacted] 25X1

The "Goma Petrovitsa" Mine

72. This mining administration includes the "Marzyan" and "Buchovitsa" Mines. The director is a Soviet (name not known). The deputy director is Boris Frengya, [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] The mine employs three specialists.
73. At present, test drilling is being conducted between the "Yuzhna Petrovitsa" and "Krushev Dol" Mines; about 20 drillings have been made. The ore is tested by the Soviets and put in cases bearing Russian inscriptions.

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74. There is a Militia uchastuk, commanded by a Militia officer, located at the mine.
75. Two galleries are in operation at the "Marsyan" Mine. One of these is 120 meters long, and the other, which is seven or eight meters long, has an ore vein about 0.50 meters thick. The mine director is Kotse (lau) [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] The mine has two collectors and about 40 miners.
76. Living conditions at the mine are poor. The workers live in tents and in village homes. There are blankets, but no beds. The Militia and mining administration have two new barracks.
77. Surveying is being conducted in the vicinity of Vurba.
78. "Ribnitsa" is located southeast of Rudozem.
79. Many roads are being constructed in the mining area for the transport of ore and to bring in necessary supplies and materiel.

General Information

80. The ore at the mines described above is chiefly lead, zinc, and pyrites. The color of the ore is grayish-black, with a faint luster. The ore is heavy and the metal content averages about 60 percent. Layers of ore are horizontal, vertical, or sloped.
81. The mine shafts are not well reinforced with timber. Material for reinforcing is available, but emphasis is put on actual ore production and the manpower is utilized toward this end even though time is lost by making it more difficult to bring out the ore.
82. Cotton clothing is issued to the workers, but the garments are of poor quality and are not available in sufficient quantities.
83. The mines are lighted by carbide lamps. There is a shortage of lamps, although there are sufficient quantities of carbide available.
84. Almost all of the mines are electrified, but electricity is used only at places where water pumps are in operation and in the vicinity of compressed air machines and compressors.
85. The cable line has a capacity of two cars per minute.

The Flotation Plant at Kurdzhali

86. When the ore, mixed with gravel and other substances, arrives at the plant, it is crushed into a powder, mixed with water, and a chemical (called a raiser) is added, causing the ore to float. The ore becomes a sludge which, after being dried, is shipped by train to Burgas and from there to the Soviet Union.
87. A mine which produces galenite ore is located near the village of Zvezdel between Monchilgrad and Krumovgrad. This is the only mine of its type in this area.
88. The cement factory (sic) produces about 1,000 tons of cement during a 24 hour period.

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